

E. V. Haughwout & Company Store  
488-492 Broadway  
New York  
New York County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5459

HABS  
NY,  
31-NEYO,  
70-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5459

## E. V. HAUGHWOUT &amp; CO. STORE

HABS

NY,

31-NEYO,

70-

Location: 488-492 Broadway, New York, New York County,  
New York.

Present Owner: Broadway Manufacturers Supply Corp., 490 Broadway,  
New York.

Present Occupant: Broadway Manufacturers Supply Co.

Present Use: Commercial building.

Statement of Significance: Built in 1857, the E. V. Haughwout & Co. Store is architecturally one of the most important of New York's cast iron buildings. The architect, John P. Gaynor, used cast iron in the design for an elegant and monumental structure for a firm selling china, crystal, and silver.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1857.
2. Architect: John P. Gaynor.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the property: The lots on which the building stands were originally numbered Lots 1, 1-½, and 2 of Block 483. These lots were later combined and numbered Lot 1.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
4/30/1856 Liber 700, page 610.	Astor John Jacob (Exrs. of)	Langdon Woodbury Walter Eugene
6/30/1856 Liber 711, page 417.	Astor John Jacob (Exr. of) Langdon Walter	Langdon Eugene
6/30/1856 Liber 711, page 422.	Langdon Eugene	Langdon Walter

5/7/1870 Liber 1128, page 546.	Langdon Woodbury G.	Langdon Walter
5/6/1895 Liber 36, page 494.	Langdon Walter (Exrs. of)	Wilks Matthew
8/24/1943 Liber 4225, page 420.	Bank of New York (Tr. of) Wilks Matthew and Wilks Eugene L. <u>et al</u>	490 Broadway Holding Corporation
4/26/1944 Liber 4279, page 138.	490 Broadway Holding Corporation	Cahn Harry Sophie Kahn Joseph Sirken Sidney Cahn Isaac Ernest
4/12/1967 Liber 169, page 399.	Cahn Sophie (Extr. of)	Broadway Mfrs. Supply Corp.
4/12/1967 Liber 169, page 395.	Kahn Joseph Cahn Isaac Ernest	Broadway Mfrs. Supply Corp.
4/12/1967 Liber 169, page 397.	Sirkin Sidney (Extr. of)	Broadway Mfrs. Supply Corp.

4. Builder, suppliers: The cast iron components for the building were cast by Daniel Badger's Architectural Iron Works of New York.
5. Original plans and construction: According to an article by Ada Louise Huxtable in Progressive Architecture (February, 1958), notes from ledgers and notebooks of Elisha Graves Otis indicate that the elevator for the building was shipped on March 23, 1857, and installation was completed on April 6, 1857. This building is generally credited with being the first commercial building in the United States with a passenger elevator equipped with safety devices.

Charles Mackay in Life and Liberty in America; Or, Sketches of a Tour in the United States and Canada, In 1857-58 described the building on Broadway as being "conspicuous among the edifices that give its most imposing character to this busy and beautiful street."

6. Alterations and additions: The following information is taken from records at the Buildings Department, Municipal Building, New York City. On May 17, 1886, architect Joseph A. Miller received approval for Plan 1116 for the following alterations, estimated to cost \$200:

The alteration consists of a brick wall 12 inches thick 13 feet high in the corner shown on the plan to form a support for a tank of 500 gal. capacity made of three inch cedar--to be placed upon Iron beams locked in said 12 inch wall as shown on plan. . .

This work was begun on January 2, 1886, and completed on June 30, 1886.

Plan No. 111 submitted by architects F. and W. E. Bloodgood was approved on June 17, 1892. The following work was begun on June 15, 1892, and completed on January 3, 1893:

It is proposed to build a fireproof elevator shaft at N. W. Cor. of building. The frame work to be of 4" beams, channels and angle iron, filled in with hollow brick, and braced and constructed in plan. Concrete and granite foundation for same. The stairs at lower end to be altered as per plan, to meet new requirements. It is also proposed to remove the present stairs at east end of building, in basement, first and second stories, fill in the well holes with long beams, and put in new flights to replace them, in the position shown on drawings.

In 1907 a steel frame for a water tank for a sprinkler system was installed, and in 1912-13 an electric freight elevator from sub-basement to fifth floor was installed. In 1964 cellar and subcellar stairs were enclosed with fireproof materials.

7. Important old views:

III, No. 30

- a. Plate in Daniel D. Badger's Illustrations of Iron Architecture Made by The Architectural Iron Works of the City of New York. This is reproduced in "Architectural Iron Works," The Architectural Forum, May, 1967.
- b. Wood engraving from 1857 or 1858 is reproduced in The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York.
- c. The building is also illustrated on a Haughwout bill reproduced in The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original and unpublished sources:

Records from the Plans Desk, Buildings Department, Municipal Building, New York, New York.

2. Secondary and published sources:

"Architectural Iron Works," The Architectural Forum, Vol. 126 (May, 1967), pp. 63-70.

Badger, Daniel D. Illustrations of Iron Architecture Made by The Architectural Iron Works of the City of New York. New York: Baker & Godwin, 1865. TH1655.A8 (plc)  
Pl. III, No. 30. (color) lith.

Bannister, Turpin C. "Bogardus Revisited, Part I: The Iron Fronts," Journal, Society of Architectural Historians, XV (December, 1956), 12-22.

Huxtable, Ada Louise, "Store for E. V. Haughwout & Company--1857," Progressive Architecture, XXXIX (February, 1958), 133-36.

"Haughwout Wins Out," Progressive Architecture, XLVII (March, 1966), 62.

Kouwenhoven, John A. The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1953.

Mackay, Charles. Life and Liberty in America: Or, Sketches of a Tour in the United States and Canada, In 1857-58. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1859.

Sturgis, W. Knight. "Cast-Iron in New York," Architectural Review, CXIV (October, 1953), 232-237.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest and merit: Built in 1857, the E. V. Haughwout & Co. Store is architecturally one of the most important of New York's cast iron buildings. The architect, John P. Gaynor, used cast iron in the design for an elegant and monumental structure for a firm selling china, crystal, and silver.

2. Condition of fabric: In need of minor repairs.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: Five stories.
2. Number of bays: The Broadway facade is nine bays wide and the Broome Street facade is fourteen bays wide.
3. Over-all dimensions: The Broadway facade measures approximately 63'-1" and the Broome Street facade measures approximately 99'-10".
4. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular in plan.
5. Wall construction, finish, and color: Cast iron, painted dark gray.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are pairs of glass and wood paneled doors in the three center bays of the Broadway facade. In the northern-most bay of the Broadway facade is a glass and wood paneled door labeled "elevator." Two glass and wood paneled doors are located on the Broome Street facade.
  - b. Windows: First floor: Broadway facade windows have one large pane of glass in each bay; Broome Street windows have rectangular transom with lower section consisting of single or double lights; some of these windows are partially bricked up. Second floor: Two-over-two-light double-hung sash. Third through fifth floors: Two-over-two-light double hung sash with two-light fanlight. All sash is of wood.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Flat roof, covered with tar paper.
  - b. Cornice: Ornate, bracketed cornice of cast iron.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans, by floor: Each floor consists of a large space, with two rows of cast iron columns (six in each row) running east and west; there is a freight elevator at the southeast corner of the building and a passenger elevator at the northeast corner; there is a stairway on the north wall directly east of the passenger elevator. On the first floor plasterboard partitions at the east end of the building forms a space used for offices.

2. Stairways: Stairway along north wall at west corner is enclosed with wooden paneling.
  3. Flooring: Wooden floor boards.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Original walls are plastered; some later plasterboard partitions. Pressed tin ceiling over tongue-and-groove wooden ceiling.
  5. Decorative features and trim: Glass and wooden paneled vestibule at center of Broadway facade is monogrammed "HPM."
  6. Lighting: Electrical.
  7. Heating: Oil heat.
- D. Site and Surroundings:
1. Orientation: The Broadway facade faces west.
  2. Sidewalks: Concrete, contiguous to building.

Prepared by Diana S. Waite  
Architectural Historian  
June, 1968